

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-03 H-01 INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00

NSC-05 PA-01 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIE-00 INRE-00

NSCE-00 SSO-00 SAB-01 OMB-01 /051 W

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O 190030Z JAN 75

FM AMEMBASSY PANAMA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2804

INFO GOV PANCANAL IMMEDIATE

USCINCSO IMMEDIATE

SEC DEF (FOR ISA) IMMEDIATE

JCS (FOR J5) IMMEDIATE

SEC ARMY (FOR DUSA) IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L PANAMA 0343

E.O. 11652: GDS

SUBJECT: PANAMA CANAL TREATY NEGOTIATIONS; LANDS AND WATERS

S/S-O: PASS TO AMBASSADOR KOREN, CHAIRMAN PANAMA CANAL NEGOTIATIONS
WORKING GROUP, FROM MINISTER BELL

1. AMBASSADOR BUNKER APPRECIATES THE DEFENSE DEPARTMENT'S
CONTINUING SUPPORT AND YOUR PROMPT AND VERY HELPFUL RESPONSE TO
OUR MOST RECENT MESSAGE. HE HAS GIVEN THE PANAMANIAN NEGOTIATORS
THE "VIEWS PAPER" AS IT HAS BEEN COORDINATED WITH THE DEPARTMENT
OF DEFENSE, AND COLONEL SWETT HAS MADE AN EXCELLENT SUPPORTING
ORAL PRESENTATION. (COLONEL SWETT REHEARSED HIS PRESENTATION FOR
AMBASSADOR BUNKER, WHO IS SATISFIED THAT IT PRESENTS YOUR POSITION
IN THE CLEAREST AND MOST FORTHCOMING MANNER.)

2. WE HAVE LEARNED DURING THE COURSE OF THE CONTINUING SOFA
NEGOTIATIONS THAT A PRIMARY PANAMANIAN POSITION WITH REGARD TO
"LANDS AND WATERS" WILL BE PANAMANINA "CONTROL" OF ALL TRAINING
AREAS. AT THE SAME TIME, THE PANAMANIANIS ARE CONCERNED WITH HAVING
THE APPEARANCE OF CONTROL RATHER THAN THE REALITY OF CONTROL, AND
THEY APPEAR FULLY PREPARED TO GRANT TO THE UNITED STATES THE
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ELEMENTS OF EFFECTIVE CONTROL.

3. AMBASSADOR BUNKER UNDERSTANDS THE POSITION WHICH THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE HAS TAKEN ON A RELATED QUESTION AS DISCUSSED IN TAB D OF YOUR LETTER OF DECEMBER 20, 1974. HOWEVER, THE PANAMANIAN MAY BE PREPARED TO ACCEPT A SCHEME WHICH WE BELIEVE WOULD BE ACCEPTABLE TO THE US. IN DISCUSSING THIS SUBJECT DURING SOFA NEGOTIATIONS, ROMULO ESCOBAR STATED PANAMA WOULD LIKE MAPS TO SHOW ALL TRAINING AREAS AS UNDER PANAMANIAN CONTROL, WITH PANAMANIAN SIGNS OUTSIDE THE GATES. US WOULD BE ABLE TO MAKE USE OF JOINT TRAINING AREAS WHENEVER AND HOWEVER IT WISHED.

4. A PROCEDURE WHICH MIGHT SATISFY BOTH COUNTRIES IS AS FOLLOWS. IT INVOLVES OUR GIVING PANAMA CONTROL OVER ALL TRAINING AREAS TO BE LISTED IN ANNEX A OF THE SOFA, INCLUDING THOSE IN PART (A) THEREOF, AND SIMULTANEOUSLY EXCHANGING CONFIDENTIAL DIPLOMATIC NOTES WHICH WOULD DELEGATE FULL OPERATING CONTROL TO THE UNITED STATES.

5. ALTHOUGH US NEGOTIATORS KNOW OF NO SIMILAR ARRANGEMENT WITH OTHER HOST COUNTRIES, FOREGOING IDEA AND PROCEDURE FOR IMPLEMENTING IT WOULD APPEAR TO REPRESENT A POSSIBLE WAY TO HURDLE A DIFFICULT PROBLEM IN TREATY NEGOTIATIONS.

6. THE AMBASSADOR ASKS THAT THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE CONSIDER THIS PROPOSAL AND ADVISE HIM PRIOR TO 10 AM, TUESDAY, JANUARY 21, OR EARLIER IF POSSIBLE AS TO THE DEFENSE DEPARTMENT'S POSITION ON SUCH A CONCESSION PRIOR TO HIS DEPARTURE FROM CONTADORA NEXT WEEK, ON THE ASSUMPTION THAT HE MIGHT OR MIGHT NOT DECIDE THAT UNITED STATES NEGOTIATING PURPOSES WOULD BE SERVED ADVANTAGEOUSLY BY SUCH AN OFFER. AMBASSADOR BUNKER MAKES THIS REQUEST FULLY APPRECIATIVE OF THE BREVITY OF THE TIME INVOLVED AND AWARE OF YOUR PREVIOUS VIEWS CONCERNING THE GENERAL QUESTION. HOWEVER, HE CONSIDERS THE POTENTIAL VALUE OF SUCH AN OFFER MADE AT THIS PARTICULAR STAGE IN THE NEGOTIATIONS TO WARRANT THE EFFORTS INVOLVED, IN TERMS OF OVERALL DEFENSE REQUIREMENTS.

7. WE ALSO VERY MUCH APPRECIATE YOUR MESSAGE ON THE RAILROAD AND ARE AWAITING AN OPPORTUNITY TO EXAMINE THE GOVERNOR'S STUDY.

8. AS YOU CAN INFER, WE ARE CLOSE UPON THE STAGE OF IMPORTANT CONFIDENTIAL

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TRADE-OFFS, AND NEED TO HAVE A COLLECTION OF CONCESSIONAL US OFFERS PERMITTING US TO EXTRACT MAXIMUM CONCESSIONS FROM PANAMA.

9. WE WILL KEEP YOU INFORMED CONCERNING THE PANAMANIAN RESPONSE TO THE LANDS AND WATERS PRESENTATION.
JORDEN

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NNN

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